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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

MORE TEUTON TRENCHES TAKEN

Britons Continue Progress Along the Western Front, While in the East the Russians Maintain Advantage

London, July 17.—British troops stormed and captured German second line positions on a front of 1,500 yards in a continuation of the steady drive north of the Somme, General Haig reported this afternoon.

The advance was made northwest of Bazentine-Le-Petit woods, which is now in the hands of the British, and pressed the British line forward to the very edges of Martinpuch village, one of the German strongholds defending Bapaume.

The German war office admitted this afternoon that the British have made further progress toward the important highway town of Pozieres, penetrating Ovillers wood, southwest of Pozieres, where heavy fighting continues. The Berlin official statement reported lively fighting west of Peronne, the objective of the French armies, though the French war office was silent on the French operations south of the Somme.

The British left flank, near Orvillers and La Boiselle, made further progress, capturing the remaining strongholds and the "brave remnants" of a German garrison, General Haig reported.

At the same time, the right flank, advancing east of Longueval village, captured the Waterlet farm, further widening the breach to the German second line.

Reports of the new British success only slightly overshadowed the news of allied victories on the eastern front. The German war office this afternoon officially admitted that General von Linsingen's right wing in Volhynia had been compelled to retreat behind the Ipa river. The Russian war office reported the capture of 13,000 prisoners in yesterday's fighting in Volhynia.

OREGON COAST ARTILLERY COMPANIES ARE IN CAMP

Fort Stevens, Ore., July 17.—Nearly 700 militiamen today began a two weeks' grind of living like regular soldiers. Under command of C. C. Hammond, eight companies of coast artillery, Oregon national guard, are encamped here today to spend the next fortnight practicing with the coast defense equipment at the mouth of the Columbia river.

Although the coast artillery companies are not recruited up to war strength, as the war department recently ordered, there are more men in the two battalions here today than on any previous summer's encampment. Two of the companies are from Eugene. The others are from Ashland, Roseburg, Albany, Cottage Grove, Medford and Portland, with a sanitary detachment from Roseburg.

PORTLAND MAMMAS SEND GOODIES TO SOLDIER BOYS

Portland, July 17.—High school boys in the Oregon militia at the Mexican border will be distinguished from their comrades by the number of luxuries they can afford.

Having entered a vigorous protest against their sons being taken to the border, parents of more than a score of the school boys today planned to shower the lads with luxuries. As a starter they will send \$250 a month regularly to the machine gun company of the Third Oregon infantry, in which most of the high school boys are enlisted.

NO FUSING WITH MOOSERS FOR THE PROHIBITIONISTS

St. Paul, July 17.—Prohibitionists won't fuse with progressives in the latter's post-season series at Chicago August 6, Eugene W. Chaffin said today. Chaffin, who was prohibitionist presidential candidate in 1908 and 1912, arrived from Tucson today.

He launched an attack at V. G. Hinshaw for carrying on several weeks' correspondence with John M. Parker, looking forward to a progressive-prohibitionist amalgamation, and then announced he would support Hinshaw if nominated.

However, Chaffin brought to town a Sulzer boom and a pretty daughter. The boom is to nominate William Sulzer, of New York. The daughter is a delegate from Arizona, who could not vote last election because she was too young.

Hinshaw and Chaffin are due for a clash tomorrow, when the project of changing the name of the party is slated for a pre-convention session.

Some factions favor the name "American party," and others "National party," with a platform based on issues other than suffrage and prohibition. Chaffin gets all heated up when interviewers make the proposal and balks.

Raising \$1,000,000 and mobilizing 5,000,000 voters is also due for discussion tomorrow.

Plans to run Henry Ford for president and W. G. Calderwood, Minneapolis, for vice-president, were all nipped up today when Calderwood cited Ford's statement that he would not run. Calderwood had previously intimated his disinclination to run as vice-president with Ford.

Presidential timber today narrowed down to ex-Governor Foss of Massachusetts, Wm. Sulzer of New York, J. Frank Hanly and S. W. Haines of Indiana.

ARGUE SIR ROGER CASEMENT'S APPEAL

London, July 17.—Sir Roger Casement's appeal from his conviction of treason, carrying with it the death penalty, was argued before Justice Darling and four associate justices of the court of criminal appeal today.

Casement's counsel argued that the actions described in the indictment did not constitute a statutory offense. He argued further that the definition of treason given to the jury by Lord Chief Justice Reading was inaccurate.

RUSSIANS PAY HEAVY PRICE FOR ADVANCE

Berlin, via Sayville, July 17.—Russian losses in killed alone since the beginning of the present offensive, from June 4 until July 1, total more than 262,000, the semi-official news agency estimated today.

"According to official reports issued at Petrograd since the beginning of the Russian offensive until July 1, the killed include 14,900 officers, among them 17 generals and 29 regimental commanders, and 248,000 men," the news agency stated.

MERGER OF COLLEGES FAILS TO WIN APPROVAL

Portland, July 17.—Nearly every Congregational church in the state was on record today in opposition to a plan to merge Pacific university at Forest Grove, Ore., and Albany college at Albany into one Presbyterian school. Pacific university was founded in 1848 by the Congregationalists. Eight years ago it was made non-sectarian. The Congregationalists are willing that the two schools be merged into one non-sectarian college, but are opposed to any plan to make the consolidated school a sectarian one. Resolutions to this effect were adopted throughout Oregon yesterday.

RURAL CREDIT MEASURE NOW LAW

Pres. Wilson Attaches Signature to Bill Establishing Line of Land Mortgage Banks Throughout Nation

Washington, July 17.—Accompanying the act with a speech paying tribute to the farmers of the country, President Wilson today signed the rural credits bill. It provides establishment of a list of land mortgage banks to handle long-time mortgage loans to farmers.

On invitation of the president, many interested in the initiating of the rural credits system were present at its signing. These included house and senate members who had handled the bill. Speaking before he signed the bill, the president said:

"On occasions of this sort there are so many things to say that one would despair of saying them briefly and adequately, but I can not go through the simple ceremony of signing this bill without expressing the feeling that I have in signing it. It is a feeling not only of profound satisfaction, but of real gratitude that we have completed this piece of legislation, which I hope will be immensely beneficial to the farmers of the country.

"The farmers, it seems to me, have occupied hitherto a singular position of disadvantage. They have not had the same freedom to get credit on their real assets that others have had who were in manufacturing and commercial enterprises. And while they sustained our life, they did not in the same degree with others share in the benefits of that life.

"Therefore, this bill, along with the very liberal provisions of the federal reserve act, puts them on an equality with all others who have genuine assets and makes the great credit of the country available to them.

"One can not but feel this is delayed justice to them and can but feel that it is a very gratifying thing to play any part in doing this act of justice. I look forward to the benefits of this bill, not with extravagant expectations, but with confident expectations that it will be of very wide reaching benefits and, incidentally, it

STRIKES MAY FORCE U.S. TO RUN ROADS

Department of Labor Officer Predicts That Government Will Take Over Railways If Strike Is Called

St. Louis, July 17.—Declaring that the United States government was better prepared now than ever before to operate the railroads of the country, J. J. Keegan, of the department of labor, predicted today the government would take over the railroads should the four great railroad brotherhoods call a strike of their members.

Keegan said that once the government took charge of the roads the men would go to work immediately. He based this assertion on the fact that the government had long since recognized the eight-hour day, one of the bones of contention in the present controversy between men and employers.

Keegan, who is in St. Louis as mediator between the Missouri Pacific and its trackmen, who threaten to strike, would not say plans had been formulated to take over the roads. However, he said that, according to his information, this step can not be avoided if the men leave their posts. He said he was practically certain that the four brotherhoods would vote to strike.

"But I can not conceive that either the railroads or the brotherhoods will let a break occur," he said. "A compromise seems more probable. However, should the break occur and nearly half a million men leave their work, paralyzing transportation and threatening starvation of the nation, the government would act in 24 hours.

"It could do nothing else. Every railroad in the country would be seized, and once these roads passed into the control of the United States they would never again be returned to private ownership."

will be of advantage to the community, for I can imagine no more satisfactory and solid investment than this system will afford those who have money to use.

(Continued on Page 4.)

OFFICIALS THINK VILLA DEAD AND TROUBLE OVER

Washington, July 17.—Villa is dead, General Pershing's troops will be out of Mexico within a month, and the national guard back home within three months, a high war department official said today.

Villa's name is being used by minor leaders to inspire fear among Carranzistas, the official declared. He said Carranza was stronger today in Mexico than he ever had been, principally because he had averted war with the United States "without loss of dignity by Mexico."

Army men in touch with border and Mexican interior conditions said today there "is not a chance in a thousand" of further trouble with Mexico, either by a repetition of the Parral and Carrizal incidents or by bandit raids.

Since the Carrizal attack was cleared up, and the last Carranza note received, the war department has taken the view that the Mexican trouble is over. Pershing's moving his base north helped immensely, it was declared. Now rains have come and threaten to necessitate further shortening of the lines.

"We expect Pershing to be out of Mexico in a month or so," said a department official today. "In three months the national guard probably will be back home."

"The Carranza government was never stronger than it is now. Sentiment has crystallized behind him since the recent trouble. This because without loss of dignity to Mexico he staved off war with the United States. Villa himself could not hurt him for that reason."

"Anñ Villa, according to our reports, is dead. We believe his name is being used by leaders to embarrass Carranza and to inspire fear in the Mexican people. We think he is dead and his cause buried with him."

THE KAISER SAW RETREAT AT SOMME

London, July 17.—Kaiser Wilhelm was at the Somme front when his army retreated under battering British blows in Saturday's fighting, it became known today. An official statement issued at Berlin confirmed previous reports of the Kaiser's presence at the front of the great Anglo-French offensive, where he has been visiting his troops and inspiring them to a more stubborn defense. The Berlin statement said that the Kaiser conferred with his chief of staff and commanding generals, visited the hospitals and conferred several Iron Crosses.

These dispatches showed that the British advance carried forward the lines to the outskirts of both the villages of Pozieres and Martinpuch, two of the most strongly defended German posts before Bapaume. The assault was begun just before daylight on a moonlight night. It followed an artillery attack which for intensity, if not duration, exceeded the bombardment that marked the beginning of the Anglo-French offensive two weeks before.

British guns blotted out enemy works, leaving only ruined redoubts, from behind which German machine gunners raked the attackers until blown to pieces by bombs.

The fighting for Longueval on Friday was a bitter battle from underground works and cellars.

"In some of the cellars the Germans fought like wolves at bay," wired one correspondent. "Down in the darkness of these places men fought savagely, seeing only the glint of each other's eyes and feeling for each other's throats unless there were still bombs handy to make a quicker ending. It was primitive warfare, cavemen fought like that in such darkness, though not with bombs, which belong to our own age."

15 ARE DEAD IN PATH OF FLOOD

Rivers Are Out of Their Banks in North and South Carolina, and Damage of More Than \$10,000,000 Reported

Asheville, N. C., July 17.—Two Cincinnati-bound trains, the Carolina special, which left here Saturday night, and another which left last night, are "lost" as a result of the flood which swept eastern North Carolina, with the loss of 15 lives. All railway and commercial telegraph lines are down. The dead in the flood caused by overflow of the French broad river are:

Louise Cressler, Asheville; Lucius Frazier, Asheville; J. B. Lite, Biltmore; Charlotte Walker, Biltmore; Mabel Foster, Biltmore; Louise Walker, Biltmore.

Three are dead at Hendersonville, and six at Charlotte.

Many bridges were carried away in the flood and railway traffic is paralyzed. Danger of a food famine in Asheville caused the local officials today to seize the food supply of the city.

More than 500 persons are homeless. The flood came so suddenly that many had to wade from their homes. Those drowned at Biltmore were caught in the current and swept away.

Washington, July 17.—The Southern railroad today practically suspended traffic south of Washington. Reports continued to pour in telling of disaster from floods in North and South Carolina. A second bridge on the Charlotte division went out at 3 a. m. Trains are unable to proceed beyond Salisbury, and no wires are in operation south of that point, Atlanta being reached by way of Chicago and New Orleans.

Ten million dollars' worth of property destroyed, five persons known to be dead, hundreds injured and missing, railroad traffic and telegraph and telephone communication demoralized, is the toll of the flood sweeping the Carolinas and Virginia known to date. Meager, disjointed details are drifting into Washington over the crippled lines of communication. The floods are the result of hurricanes of wind and rain which struck the south Atlantic coast Thursday, lifting rivers and streams far over their banks.

Asheville, N. C., the famous resort city, is hard hit. The French river has broken its course near there, flooding factories and homes in the lower part of the city. Two persons were drowned attempting to put food in the upper story of the Glenn Rock hotel. Many are marooned in their residences along the river, while rescue parties fight against the rushing current to rescue them.

Asheville was without lights last night and water is flowing in swift streams down many of the streets of the lower city.

The Southern railway depot and buildings in the vicinity are flooded to a depth of six feet.

Western North Carolina is reported facing a serious situation. Lake Toxaway's big dam and two dams at Hendersonville are reported to have collapsed, setting free hundreds of tons of water.

The Southern railway bridge over the Catawba river at Belmont, N. C., was washed away, carrying 18 men into the river. It has not been learned whether they were saved.

The missing reported to Washington in scattering dispatches are: H. P. Griffin, road supervisor; Joseph Kildan, resident engineer; C. S. Bar-

(Continued on Page 4.)

GERMAN REINFORCEMENTS ATTEMPT TO STOP SLAV ADVANCE ON KOVEL

Petrograd, July 17.—Profoundly impressed by the Russian advance, which see-saws first at this point and then at that, the Germans are massing enormous forces before Kovel. They are bringing up every available reserve in the hope of stalling the new Russian mowing machine.

The present comparative calm is deemed here to be a mere prelude to a Russian offensive of great force.

The fall of Kovel now would be a staggering blow to the central powers, completely disrupting their plans. Lemberg would be menaced more than ever, the road to the great fortress of Brest Litovsk opened and the rear of the Pinsk region threatened, necessitating a German withdrawal.

The Russians apparently do not lack ammunition. Printed on the cartridge cases are the phrases: "Don't spare bullets. Don't spare courage. There's enough plenty for all."

Cossacks from the Don, Urals,

fresh young giants from Siberia and elsewhere are fighting like gamecocks, striving to outdo each other in daredevil charges. The quarrel with the Germans is now personal, owing to the Germans' use of liquid fire and gas. Consequently fewer German prisoners are taken in proportion to the number of dead on the field.

Russian officers appear satisfied not only with the situation on the Russian front but with the spirit of the troops, which, they declare, was never higher.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE REPORT FAVORS HAY

Washington, July 17.—The senate judiciary committee today reported favorably on the president's nomination of Congressman Hay to be judge of the United States court of claims. A sub-committee was named to consider the qualifications of Judge John H. Clarke, Cleveland, Ohio, for the supreme bench.